

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A PCI-Express slot for coupling PCI-Express devices to a host system including a processor, the PCI-Express slot comprising:

5 a PCI-Express connector ~~for receiving~~ configured to receive a card to couple at least two ~~of the~~ PCI-Express devices using at least two independent ~~set~~ sets of PCI-Express lanes ~~without using a PCI-Express bridge;~~

wherein the PCI-Express slot is located on a motherboard of the host system and the host system processor communicates with the PCI-Express devices without using a
10 bridge.

2. (Previously Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, wherein four PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

3. (Previously Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, wherein eight PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

15 4. (Previously Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, wherein twelve PCI-Express lanes are used to couple at least two devices.

5. (Previously Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, wherein sixteen PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

20 6. (Previously Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, wherein thirty two PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

7. (Previously Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, where X2, X4, X8, X12, X12, X16 or X32 PCI-Express lane configurations are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

25 8. (Currently Amended) A system for coupling plural PCI-Express devices to a host system including a processor, the system comprising:

a motherboard with a PCI-Express slot having a PCI-Express connector ~~that receives~~ configured to receive a card to couple at least two ~~of the~~ PCI-Express devices using at least two independent ~~set~~ sets of PCI-Express lanes ~~without using a PCI-Express~~
bridge;

30 wherein the host system processor communicates with the PCI-Express devices without using a bridge.

9. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein four PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

10. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein eight PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

5 11. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein twelve PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

12. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein sixteen PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

10 13. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein thirty two PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

14. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein X2, X4, X8, X12, X16 or X32 PCI-Express lane configurations are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

15 15. (Currently Amended) A PCI-Express connector in a PCI-Express slot ~~for on~~ a mother board of a host system, the host system including a processor, the connector for coupling being configured to couple at least two PCI-Express devices to a the host system, wherein the host system processor communicates with the PCI-Express devices without using a bridge comprising:

20 ~~a connector that couples at least two PCI-Express devices using at least two independent set of PCI-Express lanes without using a PCI-Express bridge.~~

16. (Previously Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein four PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

17. (Previously Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein eight PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

25 18. (Previously Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein twelve PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

19. (Previously Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein sixteen PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

30 20. (Previously Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein thirty two PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

21. (Previously Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein X2, X4, X8, X12, X12, X16 or X32 PCI-Express lane configurations are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.